



## Iowa Status

common, native

## Iowa Range

statewide

## Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.  
*Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.

## microcystis

*Microcystis spp.*

Kingdom: Monera

Division/Phylum: Cyanophyta

## Features

Microcystis is a blue-green algae. It differs from green algae in that the cells don't have a distinct nucleus (control center), the pigment is spread throughout the cell, and it has a blue pigment in addition to the green chlorophyll. Microcystis is a loose colony of small, round cells in gelatinous mass. The colony floats on the water and is visible to the naked eye.

## Natural History

Microcystis is found in all types of water, especially those rich in nutrients. Microcystis often is found with Anabaena. It may be poisonous to animals. It reproduces asexually by cell division and sexually by conjugation. Microcystis can produce its own food by photosynthesis.

## Habitats

Mississippi River; Missouri River; interior rivers and streams; constructed lakes, ponds, and reservoirs; natural lakes and prairie marshes; wet prairies and fens; bottomland forests